

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCES IN
EUROPE (USAFE)**



**AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 31-207
UNITED STATES AIR FORCES IN EUROPE
Supplement**

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Security

**ARMING AND USE OF FORCE BY AIR
FORCE PERSONNEL**

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(MSgt James R. Allen)

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document is extensively revised and must be completely reviewed. It standardizes and clarifies Arming Groups, training frequency, accidental/negligent weapons discharge reporting procedures, and carrying concealed weapons.

1.5.1.1. **(Added)** The force used in self-defense must be proportionate to the force used by the attacker. Use only the minimum force needed against attackers. Use of force is not justified when the attack stops. Consult the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) and host nation or regional laws regarding parameters of self-defense.

1.6.2.1. **(Added) Special Considerations for the Use of Deadly Force within United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE).** Develop local procedures to ensure personnel are trained to give warning orders in English and the language of the host nation. The local Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) must be involved in coordination and approve all local arming and use of force policies and directives.

1.6.2.2. **(Added)** Warning shots are prohibited.

1.6.2.2.1. **(Added)** On persons carrying a firearm, if you think they are about to use it.

1.6.2.2.2. **(Added)** If there is no other way to protect yourself or others from danger of being killed or seriously injured.

1.6.2.2.3. **(Added)** On persons who have, in your sight, killed or seriously injured someone.

1.6.2.2.3.1. **(Added)** On persons committing any action that could result in damage to property, which you have been ordered to protect and has been designated by competent authority as vital to national security.

1.6.2.2.3.2. **(Added)** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) SOFA, which incorporates the NATO SOFA, specifically Article VI authorizes members of the sending state forces to possess and carry firearms in the performance of their duties when authorized by their orders. Therefore, the forces of the United States (U.S.), as a sending State, unless prohibited by this instruction, applicable host nation law, or international agreement, are authorized to carry firearms in the performance of official duties. Issue in writing whenever possible and after consultation with the staff judge advocate, authorization for off-base possession and carrying of firearms. Article VII, paragraph 6 (a) and paragraph 10 (a) and (b) of the NATO SOFA are to be considered in determining local policy on joint host nation and U.S. investigation and the U.S. forces ability to perform security functions on or off the installation. Commanders should consult their staff judge advocate (SJA) for terms of relevant bilateral agreements between the U.S. and host nations. Activities involving arming and use of force in non-NATO and non-PfP countries must be evaluated with thorough and advance coordination through the International Law Division (HQ USAFE/JAI) on a case-by-case basis.

1.6.2.3. **(Added)** Local Civilian and Host Nation Restrictions. Refer to DoD 4500.54-G, *Department of Defense Foreign Clearance Guide* (<http://www.fcg.pentagon.mil>), for additional applicable restrictions.

1.6.2.3.1. **(Added)** Air Force personnel in Italy will not carry firearms outside identified defense areas except as described in paragraph 1.5.2.5. Special consideration may be given by

Italian authorities to requests for issuance of a permit to carry a firearm. Forward requests to Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC)/BA Rome, Italy, through Vice Commander, United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE/CV).

1.6.2.3.2. **(Added)** Air Force personnel in Spain normally will not carry firearms outside of U.S. military installations. Coordinate with the ODC/JA Madrid, Spain and get authorization from local authorities before transporting weapons off base.

1.6.2.3.3. **(Added)** Air Force personnel in Turkey normally will not carry firearms outside identified defense areas. Consult provisions in USAFEI 51-707, *Regulations on Personal Property, Local Currency, and Motor Vehicles for U.S. Personnel in Turkey*.

1.6.2.3.4. **(Added)** The Commander, United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE/CC), or designated representative, is the approval authority for off-base weapons movement in the United Kingdom. Installation commanders are USAFE/CC-designated representatives.

1.6.2.3.4.1. **(Added)** The installation commander, in coordination with local security force commanders, will approve in writing the requirements to arm security forces in performance of routine official duties. Review and update these requirements annually. Consult the staff judge advocate or the installation's host nation legal advisor regarding arming of security forces off the installation.

1.6.2.3.4.2. **(Added)** The installation commander will approve in writing, with the Royal Air Force (RAF) commander coordination of all other off-base weapons movements. Forward a final copy of the approval letter to the HQ USAFE/A7S, Unit 8810 Box 245, APO AE 09459-0245 (RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom). The agency requesting the movement will meet the regulatory requirements and the spirit and intent of AFI 31-101, *The Air Force Installation Security Program*, and with regard to weapons protection, use the installation security plan during higher threat conditions.

1.8. Use of Force Training. Commanders will ensure their units have sufficient number of instructors trained to provide annual Use of Force (UoF) and Rules of Engagement (ROE). Combat Arms provides basic UoF/ROE training during weapons training. The training Combat Arms provides does not full fill annual UoF/ROE requirements.

1.8.1. Commanders will ensure UoF and weapons qualification dates are tracked to validate weapons arming list. Individuals will not be added to weapons arming lists if either their weapons qualification or UoF have expired.

1.8.2. Security Forces training flights will conduct the annual UoF classroom and practical training for Security Forces Airmen.

2.1.1.1. Non-arming Group A Airmen/units classified as enablers, those who routinely deploy multiple times each year, have a Mission Capability Statement (MISCAP) or Designed Operational Capability (DOC) statement requiring short notice deployments are considered arming Group B. Using historical deployment data, Wing commanders may require a specific percentage of these Airmen to maintain annual weapons qualifications and UoF/ROE training. The goal is to train only those Airmen needing training, not every Airman within the wing for the sake of flexibility. Sustainment/proficiency training is not required. This qualification will be valid for one year and pre-deployment weapons' training is not required. This process does not apply to USAFE Aircrew who will follow qualification guidelines in accordance with 11 series

Mission Design Series (MDS) Review and Approval (RAP) Tasking memoranda. All USAFE Airmen deploying on Joint Expeditionary Taskings will be required to qualify per reporting instructions.

2.1.1.1.1. **(Added)** USAFE (Germany only) Civilian Security Police, Zivilpolizei (ZP) will not conduct sustainment training. The ZP will remain category A and the weapons they qualify on will be determined by the Security Forces Commander and they will remain qualified for 1 year.

2.1.2.5. **(Added)** Unless provided for in a bilateral or international agreement, the United States, as a sending State, is obliged under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) SOFA, Article II, to “respect the law of the receiving State and to abstain from any activity inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the present Agreement (SOFA).” In developing local procedures and policies, commanders should clearly distinguish between military police activities on and off the installation. Article VII, paragraph 10b, of NATO/PfP SOFA states that off-base activities of military police are “subject to arrangements with the authorities of the receiving State and in liaison with those authorities.” Additionally, regional or state host nation laws may vary on issues such as use of handcuffs, self-defense, and other issues. Therefore, when performing activities off the installation, it is required that some level of coordination take place with the appropriate host nation authorities. For all activities, commanders must coordinate local procedures with the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) and the installation host nation attorney.

2.1.2.5.1. **(Added)** The HQ USAFE/A7S Chief and Deputy Chief of Security Forces are authorized to act as principal appointees for Commander, United States Air Forces in Europe (COMUSAFE).

2.1.2.5.2. **(Added)** The 435th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) Deputy Commander and numbered flight commanders are authorized to act as principal appointees for the 435th SFS.

2.2.1. Use the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM)-declared threat level. If the threat level is declared critical, and personnel already have an extension, those personnel must fire as soon as possible (circumstances permitting).

2.3.2. Commanders will establish procedures to ensure Airmen in their unit precluded from having weapons are not scheduled for weapons training or any events where they may be required to use/carry weapons.

2.4.2.1. **(Added)** USAFE Combat Arms Instructors will not conduct training or task certification of unit personnel on Use of Force. Combat Arms will provide a basic briefing with no evaluation as a part of the weapons qualification training class.

2.4.4. Unit UoF/ROE instructors will provide training once Airmen are tasked to deploy.

2.5.1.1. For German Units Only: Use USAFE Form 84, *Richtlinien der U.S. Luftstreitkräfte über die Sicherheit im Umgang Schußwaffen und die Anwendung von Gewalt* (Air Force Policy Statement Firearms Safety and Use of Force) for local national employees. USAFE Form 84 is a German translation of Air Force Policy Statement - Firearms Safety and Use of Force. German Civilian contract guards sign the form to acknowledge understanding of United States Air Force (USAF) Use of Force Policy.

2.5.1.1.1. **(Added)** For Security Forces (SF) units only, flight commanders or flight chiefs will verify all weapons qualifications, UoF and DD Form 2760, *Qualification to Possess Firearms or*

Ammunition, currency at the beginning of each duty cycle. A blotter entry will be made showing the results of the review.

2.5.2.3.1. **(Added)** Provide written notification of the withdrawal action to the affected person and the servicing armory within 24 hours of oral notification.

2.5.5.1. **(Added)** Personnel authorized to carry concealed firearms will retain AF Form 523, *USAF Authorization to Bear Firearms*.

2.6. Arming Plans. Publish rules of engagement for deadly force during periods of conflict in local contingency plans.

2.7.1. General officers planning to travel to a NATO country to which they are not permanently assigned should contact their SJA or the U.S. embassy military liaison representative, as well as, the Transportation Management Office to ensure compliance with host nation laws, notifications, and transportation requirements.

2.11. **Firearms Qualification Extensions.** Airmen are prohibited from deploying with a qualification extension. Airmen must receive live fire weapons qualification training from Air Force Combat Arms or other approved source prior to deployment in accordance with AFI 36-2226 paragraph 5.13.1.

2.11.1. Combat Arms will update the Security Forces Management Information System with all qualification extensions.

2.11.2.3.1. **(Added)** The granting authority is the munitions support squadron commander (MUNSS)/CC.

2.11.3.1. **(Added)** The major command (MAJCOM) arming authority is HQ USAFE/A7S. Forward requests to Programs and Resources Division (HQ USAFE/A7SXO), Unit 3050, Box 135, APO AE 09094-0135.

2.12.6.1. **(Added)** Do not fire blank ammunition (with the exception of .38 caliber blanks used in military working dog training) from a weapon that is not equipped with a blank adapter. Do not fire blank ammunition at individuals within 20 feet of the shooter's position. For guidance on ground combat skills, force-on-force, and live intruder play refer to AFI 36-2225 USAFE Supplement, *Security Forces Training and Standardization Evaluations Program*.

2.14.2. Commanders will ensure all accidental/negligent weapons discharges are reported within 24-hours through their installation commander to HQ USAFE/A7S. Commanders will ensure lessons learned reports are submitted to HQ USAFE/A7S within 60 calendar days of the discharge using the format shown in Attachment 4.

2.14.2.4.1. **(Added)** Peacetime Firearms Discharge. Notify the Director, Security Forces via message of all peacetime accidental discharges that result in damage or injury, and all deliberate firearms discharges. The Plain Language Address for the Chief, Security Forces is (HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//A7S//).

2.14.2.4.2. **(Added)** The installation commander will send information copies of the operations report "OPREP 3/BEELINE" message to HQ USAFE/A7S within 24 hours of the incident.

2.14.2.4.3. **(Added)** Send written follow-up reports within 45 calendar days of a firearm discharge to security forces and law enforcement branch. Address: HQ USAFE/A7SOS, Unit 3050 Box 135, APO AE 09094-0135.

2.14.2.4.4. **(Added)** Units in Turkey complete a serious incident report in accordance with U.S. Defense Representative Turkey (USDRT) 45-1 within 12 hours of all weapons discharges. Send copies to Commander United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE/CC), Unit 6365 Box 125, APO AE 09601-5125 (Aviano Air Base, Italy) and Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC)/Turkish Defense Affairs (TDA) Turkey PSC 90 Unit 7025, APO AE 09822 (Ankara, Turkey), DSN 672-2235, Commercial (90) 312-417-1801.

2.16.4.1. Non-lethal instructors must be graduates of the Interservice Non-lethal Individual Weapons Instructor Course (INIWIC) and possess Special Experience Identifier (SEI) 310. All USAFE SF units should have at least one certified INIWIC instructor assigned at all times.

2.16.5. Commanders will ensure all non-lethal weapon employments/discharges are reported within 24-hours through their installation commander to HQ USAFE/A7S. Commanders will ensure lessons learned reports are submitted to HQ USAFE/A7S within 60 calendar days of the discharge using the format shown in Attachment 4.

2.17.3. **(Added)** USAFE Form 84, *Richtlinien der U.S. Luftstreitkräfte über die Sicherheit im Umgang Schußwaffen und die Anwendung von Gewalt* (*Air Force Policy Statement Firearms Safety and Use of Force*)

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

Privacy Act of 1974

DoD 4500.54-G, *Department of Defense Foreign Clearance Guide*, available at:
<http://www.fcg.pentagon.mil>

AFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management, 18 May 2006

AFMAN 33-363, Management of Records, 1 March 2008

AFI 36-2225_USAFESUP, *Security Forces Training and Standardization Evaluations Program*,
24 Oct 2002

USAFEI 51-707, *Regulations on Personal Property, Local Currency, and Motor Vehicles for
U.S. Personnel in Turkey*, 11 March 2004

Abbreviations and Acronyms

INIWIC—Individual Weapons Instructor Course

NATO—North Atlantic Treaty Organization

PfP—Partnership for Peace

RAF—Royal Air Force

ROE—Rules of Engagement

SF—Security Forces

SFS—Security Forces Squadron

SJA—Staff Judge Advocate

UoF—Use of Force

U.S.—United States

USAFE—United States Air Forces in Europe

USAFE/CC—Commander, United States Air Forces in Europe

Attachment 3**EMERGENCY RESPONSES WITH FIREARMS**

A3.1.7.1. (Added) Refer to AFMAN 31-229, *USAF Weapons Handling Manual*, dated 12 May 2004, Attachment A11.5 for specific guidance for half-loading the M249.

A3.1.7.1.1. **(Added)** Fully load machine guns at Chief of Security Forces discretion, when anticipating hostilities, or when hostilities are in progress. Half load machine guns during nuclear logistics movements.

MARK A ATKINSON, Brigadier General, USAF
Director, Logistics, Installations & Mission Support